

AMERICAN EMBASSY  
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE.  
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA.

#3404

3-1 2048-182  
February 13, 1925.

Subject: Comment on Current Events for January, 1925.

To: A.C. of S., G-2.

RECEIVED G/2 W.D. MAR 5 1925

1. Reference "Memorandum for All Military Attachés: Subject: Special Communications" dated December 17, 1924 the following comments on current events are made:

2. During the course of the month ex-President Irigoyen made a trip to the Province of Cordoba in order to organize a campaign for the election of his candidate for governor of the province, and defeat the candidate of the other branch of the Radical Party, or the part represented by President Alvear. The campaign has caused much bad blood between the two factions which have had various fights.

The purpose of ex-President Irigoyen's trip to Cordoba, and other similar trips which have been contemplated, seems to be for the purpose of undermining the faction of the Radical Party in power, and important political events are anticipated.

3. During January the long drawn-out controversy between the Vatican and the Argentine Government over the appointment of the Archbishop of the Diocese of Buenos Aires----which has been mentioned in reports of this office, and frequently in those of the State Department----seems to have been at a deadlock, as neither party appears willing to concede anything to the other, and in consequence relations between the Vatican and the Argentine Government might possibly be severed.

4. The Latécoere Co. (French) as mentioned in reports #3390 and #3398, this office, is contemplating establishing an aero-plane service between France and South America. A successful trial flight was made between Rio Janeiro and Buenos Aires, and return in the month, although one plane of the three that started had to give up the flight. It does not seem possible that this company will make a success of the enterprise on account of excessive cost of operation. A similar company running an aerial passenger service between Buenos Aires and Montevideo, which was started two or three years ago, was unsuccessful and had to give

up on account of excessive expense.

5. General Pershing's visit to Argentina and Uruguay was made the subject of a special report on January 28, 1925.

6. The Argentine Army, which had practically ceased to exist from November 1924 to January 1925, has now incorporated the 1904 class of conscripts into its five divisions. As yet the new Army organization tables have not been issued, but it is expected that they will be published in the near future.

*R. W. Dusenbury*  
R. W. DUSENBURY,  
Military Attaché.

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*B.L.*

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AMERICAN EMBASSY  
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE.  
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA.

#3409

March 12, 1925.

Subject: Comment on Current Events.

To: A.C. of S., G-3.

RECEIVED 0/2 W.D. APR 1 1925

1. Few events even of minor importance have occurred during the month of February.

2. Captain Barclay, G.S., Military Attaché in Brazil paid a week's visit here during the stay over of the S.S. "Pan America" in Buenos Aires, and considerable benefit was derived from his visit in regard to M.A. work.

3. Mr. Gould C. Dietz, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War for the 7th C.A. visited Buenos Aires for about a week arriving on the S.S. "Resolute". I showed him what courtesies I could, and desired to entertain him, but he was unable to accept. He seemed very much pleased with his visit to South America, and I believe has met the various military attachés during his visit.

4. On February 2nd the centenary of the Treaty of Amity Commerce and Navigation concluded between the United Provinces of the River Plate and Great Britain was celebrated. The event received much publicity both in Great Britain and Argentina and was fittingly celebrated in both places.

5. Notwithstanding the recent uproar over the alleged bakers' combine, the price of bread continues disproportionately high in relation to the price of wheat and flour. There has, in fact, been an almost generally upward tendency in food prices, and there is much talk of an official investigation. Incidentally, the value of the U.S. gold dollar has fallen from about 120 to 109.80 on the Argentine gold peso since my arrival here, and it is believed that within a few months the Argentine gold peso will be at par --- 1,036.

*R. W. Dusenbury*  
R.W. DUSENBURY,  
Military Attaché.

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EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHÉ  
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

#3422

April 7, 1925.

Subject: Comment on Current Events.

To: A. C. of S., G-3.

RECEIVED G/2 W.A. APR 30 1925

1. The following are items of interest which took place in Argentina during the month of March, 1925.

2. On March 14th General Harbord, with two representatives of the Radio Corporation of America, arrived in Buenos Aires in connection with Radio business. He was given a luncheon by myself at the Jockey Club for the purpose of meeting the Minister of War, and the senior army officers around Buenos Aires, and was also given a dinner at the same place by the Ambassador, at which several Cabinet Ministers were present. The general left for Chile on March 22nd.

3. For the last few weeks there have been rumors of Government intervention in the province of Buenos Aires on account of graft and mismanagement. As a preliminary, the Government through the Ministry of War, took all fire arms and ammunition from the gun shops throughout the province, and had them locked up in the Government arsenal in order to prevent possible trouble which might take place should the government intervene in the province. This seems to be in compliance with an old law which does not allow the sale of firearms to persons without licence, and for many years has been a dead letter.

4. President Alvear seems to be rather reluctant in intervening the province of Buenos Aires, quite reversing the policy of his predecessor who at one time had nearly all the provinces under intervention.

5. The counting of the ballots of the Córdoba Provincial elections, which took place about a couple of months ago, was completed March 28th which showed a victory for the Democrats by a small majority over the Irigoyenistas, but which also shows the growing strength of the former President, as until lately his partisans in this province were negligible.

R. W. DUSENBURY  
Military Attaché.

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AMERICAN EMBASSY  
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE.  
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA.

#3444

May 5, 1935.

Subject: Comment on Current Events.

To: A.C. of S., G-2.

*Noted  
W. J. Margerite*

MAY 11 1935

1. On April 2, 23 and 23 I made visits to the different military schools of the Argentine Army.

On April 21st I visited the Infantry, Cavalry and Artillery Schools for officers and men at Campo de Mayo, and the School for Non-commissioned Officers at the same place. These schools, with the exception of the N.C.O.'s School, are in the first stages of development as it is the first year they have been started. The Infantry, Cavalry and Artillery Schools seem to be for the training of officers the same as our service schools, and also for the conscripts who, at the end of the school year are discharged as "cabos" (corporals) in the reserve. At these schools the conscripts are organized into a regiment, and are put under an intensive training during the course. They are men who are supposed to be above the general average in intelligence, and are recommended for the schools from the different regiments.

The officers' courses have not started yet. It is intended that all these courses be practical and in the field.

The N.C.O.'s School seems to have been in existence for a number of years, and is further developed. These men are volunteers who have taken examinations, and sign up for two years at the school, and when they complete the course, they can take their places in the army as sergeants.

2. On April 22 I visited the School of Communications, also the Aviation School at El Palomar.

The School of Communications is also in the early stages of its development, and seems to have quite a good deal of equipment of German make, but it is somewhat antiquated.

The Aviation School appears to be a little more advanced, but as yet they do not train any more than about 12 men per year. The aeroplanes are of a good many makes, mostly American, British and German.

*Copy to M11 5 June 1935*

3. On April 23 I visited the School of Gymnastics and Fencing which is a small school for the training of young men in all round athletics. The course is 3 years and at the end of the course, they contract for 3 more years and then are sent to organizations to act as instructors in athletics, gymnastics and fencing.

4. Later I visited the Superior School of War where the course is entirely academic. It is conducted mostly by classes and lectures.

5. In most of these schools the courses are not yet planned, and it is too early to send in reports at this time, other than this informal one.

My impressions on these visits were as follows:

#### Favorable.

1. Officers are intensely interested in their work, and on account of the short period of service of the conscripts they work long hours at the drills which are not dismissed until towards evening.

2. Men seem to be well disciplined, and their set ups are fair, however they do not average up with our own.

3. Equipment and arms of all kinds seem to have received excellent care, also the horses appear to be kept in very good condition.

4. Much snap is required in all drills, and the men are punctilious about saluting the officers.

5. Although the system of training would appear to be the old German one including the goose step and the Prussian salute, the treatment of the men by the officers apparently is very considerate.

6. In the Argentine Army great interest is shown in athletics. Gymnastics are a part of the training of every soldier. A new school "La Escuela de Gimnasia y Esgrima" has just been organized this year for the purpose of fostering athletics throughout the army.

7. The food which the soldiers receive is quite wholesome. The national dish called "puchero" which is a mixture of boiled meat and vegetables is served every day. The diet, however, is not greatly varied, and cannot be compared to our own. The men appear to get an overdose of meat.

#### Unfavorable.

1. The barracks where the soldiers are housed as a rule are greatly overcrowded. Bunks are close together, and are double deckers.

2. There is apparently no provision made for heating barracks, and their construction is quite open.

and I have been  
told that you are  
not at home.  
I am sorry to hear  
that. I hope you  
will be able to  
come soon.

4. On account of stagnant pools of water after rains a good breeding place for mosquitos is offered, and apparently the men are given no protection such as mosquito bars. During certain seasons of the year mosquitos are extremely numerous.

5. The two camps that I visited were veritable quagmires once one got outside the buildings. After rains the roads are six inches deep in mud. No work whatever has been done obviously in making good communications around the pests.

6. Congressman Fredericks and wife and Captain Bogart and wife made a visit here for about one week. They were entertained by the Ambassador, and also by myself. They left for Brasil on April 23, 1925.

*R. W. Dusenbury*  
R.W. DUSENBURY,  
Military Attaché.

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AMERICAN EMBASSY  
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE.  
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA.

#3465

July 8, 1925. B.C.

Subject: Comment on Current Events.

To: A.C. of S., G-2. RECEIVED G/2 W.D. AUG 7 1925

1. On a recent trip to Northern Argentina and Paraguay during the month of June I visited Iguazu Falls and Asunción.

2. In Corrientes I visited the 6th Cavalry of the Argentine Army, and spent a day at their cuartel and saw their drills. These drills appeared to be very well conducted, and the instruction is quite efficient, although the housing conditions of the regiment are wretched, as the troops live in old stables with muddy floors. Enclosed are a few snapshots taken at Corrientes.?

3. In Paraguay the most important issue at present apparently is the boundary dispute between Paraguay and Bolivia, which seems to be at a rather acute stage and there is a good deal written in the Asunción newspapers concerning the matter.

4. While in Paraguay I was informed that the government is more stable now than it has been for years, and I have no doubt that the Bolivian boundary dispute has a great deal to do with this, inasmuch as an outside issue furnishes matter for thought other than their own periodical internal political squabbles. However, most of the Paraguayans with whom I had occasion to talk stated that revolutions break out of a clear sky, and one can never tell when one is impending.

5. It is rather difficult to get any definite information on the Paraguayan army, as in view of possible trouble with Bolivia, the government does not want to disclose the real weakness of the army. As far as I was able to ascertain the army numbers from 1500 to 1800 men, and most of them are stationed outside of Asunción. However, I expect to obtain some reliable figures shortly. The Brazilian Military Attaché in Asunción told me that he also found the greatest difficulty in obtaining any information.

✓6. While in Asunción I visited the Military College. The Commandant of this College is much interested in sending some of his instructors to one of our schools, and I told him I would give him what information I could obtain on the subject. I believe it would be a very good thing for the country if some of the men could be sent to our service schools, as it might help to instill a spirit of patriotism in them, rather than their old time-worn policy of following the leader in some revolution.

7. My trip as a whole was a success, and I got an insight into some of the country outside Buenos Aires, and I believe that this will be helpful to me in the future in various ways.

*R. W. Dusenbury*  
R.W. DUSENBURY,  
Military Attaché.

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AMERICAN EMBASSY  
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE.  
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA.

#3485

August 2, 1925.

Subject: Comment on Current Events.

To: A.C. of S., G-2.

SEP 3 1925

1. During the month of July few events of importance took place.

2. The Minimum Requirements for the Political Information Digest were received, and the work on Argentina has been started, but information on Uruguay and Paraguay will be obtained later on.

3. On July 9th, the National Independence Day, a large military and naval <sup>parade</sup> took place and was reviewed by the President from Government House. Troops of the 1st and 2nd Divisions of the Army stationed in and in the vicinity of Buenos Aires, the naval contingent in Buenos Aires and cadets of the Military and Naval Colleges took part. The entire parade lasted for about an hour and a half, judging from the time in passing the reviewing stand. The appearance of the military and naval contingent was excellent, considering that the major part of the troops have had only about six months' service. The condition of the uniforms, equipment, arms and horses showed that a lot of care and attention is given to them, and the lines passing the reviewing stand, and the goose step would have gladdened the Kaiser's eyes. The review on the whole would do credit to any country. There will probably be some more big military turnouts this month during the visit of the Prince of Wales.

4. On July 13 our new Minister in Uruguay, Mr. Ulysses Grant-Smith presented his credentials to the President. He requested me by telegram to be present on the occasion, which I did, and I spent July 13 to 16 in Montevideo. The Minister stated that he would like to have me spend part of next summer in Uruguay. Our new Minister, Mr. Kreeck took his post in Paraguay at the same time.

5. The Minister of War is making an effort to hold army

maneuvers this year in the Province of Cordoba something which has not been done for several years. If he succeeds in his plans the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Divisions and the Cavalry Brigades will be assembled together, and an appropriation of \$500,000 m/n will be made to cover the expenses.

✓6. The Minister of the Interior Dr. Vicente C. Gallo presented his resignation on July 27th. It was rumored that this resignation would be followed by those of other Cabinet Ministers including the Minister of War, but at date of writing these have not yet taken place.

*R. W. Dusenbury*  
R. W. DUSENBURY,  
Military Attaché.

AMERICAN EMBASSY  
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE.  
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA.

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OFFICE CHIEF OF STAFF  
MIL. INTE. DIV  
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#3511

September 10, 1925

ULFARIMEN

BIC,

Subject: Comment on Current Events.

To: A.C. of S., G-2.

RECEIVED 10:2 W.A.M. OCT 1 1925

1. During the past month the most important event which took place in Uruguay and Argentina was the visit of the Prince of Wales.

3. The Prince was warmly received in Montevideo, and he created a good impression during his short stay there.

3. He arrived in Buenos Aires on August 17th on the cruiser "Curlew". The battleship "Repulse" which had brought him from South Africa having docked at Mar del Plata. The Prince was entertained at a continuous series of banquets, balls, visits, etc. during his stay in Buenos Aires, and the city was decorated in its usual Carnival attire. The residence provided for him was the Basualdo mansion, which is next to this Embassy, and there was always a curious crowd hanging around the house, and everywhere he went a large mob was at his heels. A gala performance was given at the Colon Grand Opera House for which tickets cost from \$500 m/n to \$1,000 each, as they had fallen into the hands of speculators.

The Prince reviewed the military and naval units on Avenida Alvear, and, as usual, they made a very fine appearance. This parade was practically the same as the one held on July 9th.

The latter part of his stay was spent at packing plants and estancias outside of Buenos Aires, and he left Argentina for Chile on September 5th.

His visit was capitalized by the British community in Argentina for trade propaganda and to strengthen friendly relations between the countries. However, it is said that the Prince of Wales was not nearly so popular a figure as the Italian Crown Prince who visited Argentina about a year ago. The Prince of Wales was severely criticised by several papers on his actions. At dances he danced with the women he pleased rather than with the wives of State officials. He only wore a uniform when it was

absolutely necessary, and this did not appeal to the Argentines. His informality and democratic demeanor did not seem to add to his popularity as it does on his visits to the United States. The Argentines seem to be more fond of formality than the Americans.

4. Dr. Gallo's resignation and the subsequent appointment of Dr. Tamborini as Minister of the Interior, it was thought, would cause a wholesale resignation of the Cabinet, but this did not seem to materialise. Dr. LeBreton, the Minister of Agriculture resigned for the second time on August 31st, and Dr. Mihura, the Postmaster General was appointed in his place. There seem to be no further Cabinet resignations threatened.

*R. W. Dusebury*  
R. W. DUSENEURY,  
Military Attaché.

AMERICAN EMBASSY  
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE.  
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA.

3.1 2048-192  
Nov.19,1925.

#3553

Subject: Report on Current Events.

To: A.C. of S., G-2.

RECEIVED 10/2 W.B. / DEC 10 1925

1. On October 30th the military attaches from France, Spain, Japan, Brazil, Chile(two) and myself, also the British and Italian Air Attaches were invited to attend the Argentine Army maneuvers as guests of the Minister of War. A special coach was placed at our disposal, and Lieut. Colonel Alvea from the Ministry of War was detailed in charge of the trip. After a change of trains at Cordoba city, our coach was taken to the station Jose de la Quintana. During our stay at Jose de la Quintana we lived in the coach, and took our meals at an estancia house nearby. The only exercises which we saw were the Division Maneuvers on November 2nd and 4th. On our arrival at the maneuvers grounds we proceeded to General Uriburu's headquarters (the Director of Maneuvers). On these occasions he and his staff and spectators posted themselves on a hill where they could see what was going on. The Attaches were supposed to stay near at hand and not wander away, so that what we were able to see and the knowledge acquired was somewhat limited for that reason.

I understand that whenever maneuvers of any kind take place here, either Army or Navy, it is always the policy of the Army and Navy authorities to limit the amount of knowledge which a military or naval attaché can gain as much as possible, especially when there are attaches from Brazil and Chile present. Had these attaches not been present it is probable that we would have received more liberal treatment, and been taken around and shown the camps and the ways of handling organizations more closely. This seemed to be the opinion of most of the military attaches present.

Major General Ruprecht of the Uruguayan Army, and Brig. General Schenoni of the Paraguayan Army, with several other junior officers from these two countries attended the maneuvers during the entire period as guests of the Minister of War.

I tried to obtain the written orders for the exercises on the days I was there, but they gave me the general and special

situations, but I could not get any of their orders.

We were royally entertained during this trip, but as for accomplishing as much as I would have liked to in getting a close insight on the maneuvers themselves, I didn't get much of a chance nor did any other attache.

The maneuvers for this country were on a very large scale. All the troops which could be spared were sent. They were all exercises in handling troops of all arms, and company, battalion, and regimental problems were eliminated.

The Supply Departments had to keep moving bodies of troops supplied at all times as under campaign conditions, but the depots and transportation never actually figured in the problems, and were never subject to being captured.

The grounds themselves were ideal for maneuvers. The country is varied and is about 80 kilometers long by 40 wide, and there are only a few small towns and ranches on them.

At the maneuvers there were five German ex-Army officers, some of whom had been instructors in the Superior School of War in Argentina. These men were attached to General Uriburu's Staff, and I believe had much to do with the planning of the maneuvers themselves. They were frequently consulted by staff officers, and they assisted in the critiques after the day's exercises, although they had nothing to say themselves at the exercises, they gave their comments to the officer making the critique. They were all dressed the same, in civilian khaki riding suits and tropical helmets. These men, I believe, are now in business in Buenos Aires, and are employed by the War Department from time to time.

We returned to Buenos Aires on November 5th, and were invited to attend the grand review at the end of the maneuvers on the 10th, but the Ambassador requested that I remain here on account of the arrival of Mr. Weeks, so I did not go.

In my observations of the troops themselves their discipline was excellent, and they were able to endure long marches. Prior to the review on November 10th the troops marched from near Ea. Tülzer to Cordoba, about 80 kilometers in two days, under full pack with a rest day between.

✓3. During the present month, the conscripts who have served in the army for the present year will be discharged, and the new class (1906) will enter the Army in January.

✓3. Mr. Weeks' health has not been good since his arrival here. He has requested that no official functions be given him, and he will leave for the United States via Chile and the West Coast on November 31st.

*R. W. Dusenbury*  
R. W. DUSENBURY  
Military Attaché.

AMERICAN EMBASSY  
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE.  
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA.

#3555

December 1, 1925.

Subject: Report on Current Events.

To: A.C. of S., G-2.

1. Since the termination of the Argentine Army maneuvers on November 10th, which have already been reported on, there have been few events of interest to report upon. The maneuvers themselves marked the final wind up of the present class of conscripts, who are being discharged in approximately three equal parts during the months of November, December and January. This is the usual period of the year when officers take leaves and many are now taking advantage of them. After the maneuvers all the military and air attachés combined in giving a large luncheon to the Minister of War, and about twenty-five of the senior officers of the Argentine Army in return for the courtesies shown us at the maneuvers.

2. I was informed at the maneuvers that arrangements have been made by the Paraguayan Government with the French Government for a French Military Mission to be sent to Paraguay for the purpose of reorganizing the army and putting it on a more efficient basis. This mission will consist of four French officers, and they are expected to arrive in Paraguay the first of the coming year.

3. Brigadier General Maglione who has been Chief of the Argentine Purchasing Commission in Europe during the last two years studying new armaments for the purpose of purchasing a new stock of war materials for the Argentine Army will arrive in Buenos Aires on December 1st. This commission has visited arsenals and arms factories in France, Spain, Belgium and Italy. General Maglione has been replaced by Brigadier General José Belloni who is already in Europe, and will head the mission. So far the commission has purchased some aeroplanes and aeroplane materials, and some minor accessories, but so far have made no large purchases it seems.

4. Congress, which was called for extraordinary sessions on November 23rd has put off any meetings until December 6th as the Irigoyenist faction of the Radical Party announced that they would not be able to attend sessions until after the elections in the province of Buenos Aires. It is probable that there will not be a great deal accomplished during this extra session in the line of legislation.

✓ 5. The leading newspapers so far have written very little in the way of editorials in regard to the Tacna and Arica question. Public opinion does not seem to have crystallized sufficiently to support either Chile or Peru in the present controversy.

6. At the same time as the San Martin monument was unveiled in Washington exercises were held in Buenos Aires at George Washington's monument in which the President and high Government officials, members of our Embassy and school children from a number of schools were present, and patriotic songs were sung, and flowers were placed on Washington's monument. This occasion seemed to have a very beneficial effect on the friendly relations between Argentina and the United States.

✓ 7. Mr. John W. Weeks, the ex-Secretary of War left Argentina for the United States via Chile, and the West Coast of South America after a very quiet stay. All entertaining was of a quiet nature.

*Dec. 1/25*  
*R. W. Dusenbury*  
R. W. DUSENBURY,  
Military Attaché.